

**BETWEEN DESTINY AND SELFISHNESS:
AN EXISTENTIAL STUDY ON BELLA'S SEARCH FOR
MEANING OF LIFE IN MEYER'S *BREAKING DAWN*
NOVEL (2008)**



PUBLICATION ARTICLE

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department**

by:

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**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2013**



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Program Studi : BAHASA INGGRIS
Judul skripsi : BETWEEN DESTINY AND SELFISHNESS: AN
EXISTENTIAL STUDY ON BELLA'S SEARCH FOR
MEANING OF LIFE IN MEYER'S *BREAKING DAWN*
NOVEL (2008)

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Surakarta, October 2013

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ABSTRACT

This research paper elaborates the destiny and selfishness of Bella Swan in Breaking Dawn novel. The objectives of the research are to analyze the novel based on its structural elements and to analyze the novel especially the main character based on the existentialist psychoanalytic approach. The researcher employs the descriptive qualitative research as a type of the research. The data sources are divided into two, namely primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is Breaking Dawn novel. It comprises such thing dialogue, sentence and paragraph in that novel. The secondary data are taken from data sources such as literary books, article and other relevance sources. The method of collecting data is reading carefully and makes notes. The technique of analyzing data is descriptive analysis. The study conclude that the author illustrates a psychological phenomenon in which an individual is torn between two different qualities.

Keywords: Love and Selfishness, Bella, *Breaking Dawn* novel, Existentialist Psychoanalytic

A. INTRODUCTION

The Twilight Saga: *Breaking Dawn* novel (2008) is the fourth novel of the Twilight Saga. It becomes the final of The Twilight Saga novel by American author, Stephenie Meyer. The Twilight Saga consists of four novels, there are *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and the final is *Breaking Dawn*. *Breaking Dawn* novel used English for original language. The writer wants to know about the destiny of Bella. Bella as the main character in this novel actually, Bella is the human. She becomes the human until she died. But, Bella chooses to become the vampire

The writer found literary review about *Breaking Dawn* novel. The previous research related to the study was conducted by Widarti Dian Nursusanti (UAD: 2010) in her research entitled “The Struggle of The Main Character in Defending the Unity of the Family in Stephenie Meyer’s *Breaking Dawn*: A Psychological Study”. In her research paper, the writer shows that the main character was defending each other and protect from voltury’s attack. The research has similarity with the previous research, because it analyzes the same data source but the approach and the issue are different. Here, the writer uses existentialist psychoanalytic approach to be analyzed, and destiny and selfishness of the major character for the issue.

The writer found some articles about *Breaking Dawn*. The first is from Leisha Jones (Criticism: 2011). In her article presents literary criticism on the Twilight Saga series of books by Stephenie Meyer including *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn*. The author suggests that the Twilight Saga is a bildungsroman that focuses primarily on the main character's growth throughout the four novels. The fact that readers of the series are not only consumers but creators of content for the series is also discussed. Second is article from Brian Bethune (Maclean’s: 2008). The article reports on the success of hybrid vampire-romance novels among teenage readers in the United States. The piece was written on the occasion of the publication of *Breaking Dawn*, by Stephenie Meyer, the 2008 installment of her vampire

series. Meyer's popularity is compared to that of J. K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter novels.

Psychoanalysis is the branch of psychological study that focuses on the personality of human being. According to Freud, “Psychoanalysis reflects to the changing value in the society and it plays a role in the changing of values” (Pervin, 1984: 21). According to Fromm (1947: 40), human existence is different in this respect from that of all other organism; it is in a state of constant and unavoidable disequilibrium.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The writer use *Breaking Dawn* novel by Stephenie Meyer as the object of the study. The primary data are taken from main data source, *Breaking Dawn* novel. It comprises such thing dialogue, sentence and paragraph in *Breaking Dawn* novel by Stephenie Meyer. The secondary data are taken from data sources such as literary books, article and other relevance sources.

The method of collecting data is note taking. The writer took important information relating to the material to be analyzed. The technique of data collection in this study takes the following steps are reading the novel, reading some sources related with the novel, taking notes for important part both in primary and secondary sources, and browsing to the internet. The technique of data analysis description in this study is started from studying materials of existentialis psychoanalysis theory.

C. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In analyzing the novel, the researcher analyzes temperament and characters as the aspect of existentialist psychoanalytic perspective. Moreover, this chapter is divided into temperament characteristic, characters orientation, type of orientation.

1. Temperament Characteristic

a. Goal – Oriented

Bella was a goal-oriented person. Bella's destination turned into a vampire so that she would be forever with Edward without having got old. If Bella did not choose to be a vampire, Bella will grow old and die. This is not expected by Bella. Then, Bella chose to be an immortal and deny her destiny to be human. Bella's decision made Jacob very painful. She was choosing a fate that was worse than death or it's equivalent (BD, Chapter 4: 50).

Bella wants her forever frozen as quickly as she could. If she does not become a vampire, she will have a much age difference with Edward. Edward froze when he was 17 years old. She said frozen forever at eighteen was woman's dream. Her dream would come true (BD, Chapter 2: 25)

b. Stubborn

Bella drives and determination can cause to become workaholic, make opinionated and stubborn, and leave insensitive to other's feelings. Bella's mother revealed that Bella would not change her decision since it was first made. Bella is same stubbornness as Charlie, his father. (BD, Chapter 1: 17)

Bella and Edward ever make a deal if he wants to change Bella into a vampire after getting married and before they attended Dartmouth. Bella wants to change the deal. She wants to remain a human when they attended Dartmouth, perhaps within a year. This is make Edward worries will hurt Bella again. But Bella tried to persuade Edward to be granted her wish. (BD, Chapter 5: 77)

c. Thought-full

Bella was worry about anything. These worries often interfere with her life as well as she would worry about her marriage to

Edward. Bella thought about her wedding day tomorrow. Wedding was one of the things that made Bella worry. Bella was also worried about the wedding dress designed by Alice. Bella thought, dresses were designed Alice would be inconvenient for her. (BD, Chapter 2: 27)

Bella thought about the Denali and the people from the reservation. Bella remembered about the tensions between Irina and werewolf. When the pair of Irina, Laurent, wanted to kill Bella, Laurent was attacked and killed by werewolves. The thing that made Bella's worried about the two families. When The Cullen attacked by newborn vampire, family Denali feel guilty for not helping. (BD, Chapter 2: 28)

d. Strive for Perfection

Bella wants perfection in her life. Become a vampire, she would get eternal life. She would not grow old, has white skin and hard as granite, and has the capability not possessed by humans. Perfection belongs to Bella when she became a vampire. Bella's first reaction was an unthinking pleasure. She didn't believe her reflection on the mirror. The woman who saw by Bella was fluid even in stillness, pale flawless face, dark hair, and heavy hair. Her limbs were smooth and strong, skin glistening subtly, luminous as a pearl. Bella was awesome. (BD, Chapter 20: 299)

e. Need Sensitivity and Support

Bella needed sensitivity and support from others. She required space and silence in which to think before speak, write, or act. Before Bella's pregnancy, the relationship between Bella with Rosalie was not harmonious. However, when Bella knew that she was pregnant, she asked Rosalie to support her decision to maintain her pregnancy. (BD, Chapter 7: 103).

2. Character Orientation

a. Waiting

That was happen in the life of Bella Swan. She got happiness with Edward. After meeting Edward first time, she was in trigged by Edward until she finally gave up his life to turn out to be like her lover. Bella knew that Edward was a vampire, that part of him thirsts for her blood and that she was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him. (BD, Chapter 5: 64)

b. Ability to Sell

In this case, a person's ability to sell capacity in him is very important. This ability is often present in modern society. With the capabilities of Bella in economic terms, makes him respected when he came to the lawyer to make false documents.

When Alice left a message to Bella, the contents of the message was the name of a person. J.Jenks, whose name was written by Alice. J.Jenks was a lawyer. Bella was capturing the intent Alice. Bella met J.Jenks to create false documents for Renesmee and Jacob. If they did not survive against the Volturi, Jacob and Renesmee could save themselves with a new identity. Bella was not concerned about the cost to make this document. Bella just wanted them survived. Prices paid commensurate with the safety desired by Bella. (BD, Chapter 33: 471)

3. Type of Orientation

a. Accepting

Bella is actually a stubborn girl, but she was willing to accept the deal she had made with Edward. Bella's deal is expected to take Bella's happiness with Edward. It happened when Bella refused to replace his truck with the car giving by Edward. Although Edward

said that she may return it after marriage, Bella still rejected. She just wanted to replace her truck when needed replacing . Unexpected when it came so fast, Bella's truck had to be replaced due to damage. Finally Bella accepted the offer to use a car loan from Edward. (BD, Chapter 1: 10)

b. Modest

Bella was not confident when driving a car from Edward. She does not like being the center of attention. Bella did not like show off the car that she was driving. She convinced herself that no one who saw her. (BD, Chapter 1: 7)

When Bella, Jacob and Renesmee want to go to Charlie's house, Bella was driving Edward's Volvo. She was not driving her Ferrari because according to her, it was too flashy. Besides want to go to Charlie's house, Bella wants to see the lawyer. (BD, Chapter 33: 459)

c. Optimistic

The threat from the Volturi make the Cullens must seek many witnesses in order to Volturi believe that Renesmee is not dangerous. As with Alice, she left a message for Bella, with this message, make Bella optimistic that there is a way to save Renesmee. (BD, Chapter 29: 418)

d. Idealistic

Bella's mother revealed that Bella would not change his decision since it was first made. Bella is same stubbornness as Charlie, his father. This proves that Bella is the idealistic. (BD, Chapter 1: 17)

e. Forward-looking

Bella outlook towards the future, she was thinking about the life that she chooses for future. After discussion with the Volturi finished with Nahuel testimony that the immortal child is not dangerous, Bella was relieved. Bella's family was reunited. Her daughter had a beautiful future stretching out endlessly in front of her. Sue would be with Charlie. He wouldn't be alone anymore. She excited her life will be happy forever. She did not want her past make her not get up. (BD, Chapter 39: 544-545)

f. Efficient

Bella is efficient person. She does not like complicated things. This is affecting role in terms of dress. Bella prefers wear jeans and t-shirts to wear dress. Bella also did not like when she has to wear high heels. She should have practiced when wear her wedding dress. (BD, Chapter 2: 27).

Bella never liked wearing shoes like most women. Bella is not feminine. She was like a man who likes to wear a T-shirt and sneakers. According to her, wearing heels and dresses are not practical. (BD, Chapter 21: 303)

g. Adaptable

When Charlie wanted to see Bella the first time after Bella and Edward were honeymoon, Bella is very nervous. She was afraid if she hurt Charlie. Bella afraid of Charlie knew about her transformation. For that reasons, Bella taught how to act be a human. Bella quickly understand what to do. Bella had to adjust to the vampire condition. She learned how to wink her eyes. Humans did not stare at one thing for too long. She had to cross her legs for about five minutes, then switch to crossing her ankles for the next five. (BD, Chapter 25: 369)

According to temperament type divided into four. They are Sanguine, Melancholy, Choleric, and Phlegmatic. Based on the analysis above, the researcher can state that Bella has Melancholic-Choleric temperament. Melancholic temperament has character thought-full, strive for perfection, need sensitivity and support, deep, and quitter. Bella has three character of Melancholic. Besides that, Bella also has choleric temperament. Choleric has features goal-oriented, seek loyalty, stubborn, and organized. Bella has two characters of that. Melancholy temperament is more dominant than Choleric. These characters make Bella focus on her grain. Blend of Melancholy and Choleric make "work" personality. They are decisive, organized, and goal-oriented.

Type of orientation is divided into four, such as receptive, exploitative, hoarding, and marketing orientation. From the analysis, Bella has receptive and marketing orientation. Bella has receptive characteristic, she is waiting her happiness. She is waiting Edward for her happiness. Bella also has marketing orientation. She showed that she has the economic ability and are willing to pay handsomely for the safety of her child. In modern society, almost people do that.

Based on the type of orientation, Bella has positive aspect of receptive orientation and marketing orientation. In receptive orientation Bella has characteristics accepting, modest, optimistic, and idealistic. They are opposite of passive without initiative, without pride, wishful thinking, and unrealistic. Bella also has positive aspect of marketing orientation. They are forward-looking, efficient, and adaptable. These positive aspects have opposite. The negative aspects of these are without a future or a past, overactive, and undiscriminating.

D. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Based on the existentialist psychoanalytic analysis, it is evident that in its novel. The author illustrates a psychological phenomenon in which an individual is torn between two different qualities. Whether she wants to make

her life meaningful by becoming as she is, or to fulfill her wishes by becoming somebody other than herself. To follow her wishes, she should ignore the destiny that is essentially already determined by God. Following the wishes mean also make her become someone else. It is removes her true identity in part indirectly.

Related to the previous conclusion, this study is hoped to give new contribution in education for both the teacher and the students of English Department and also the general readers. For teacher, this study can be used as the alternative teaching material in literature class. It can be used as an example of a play, which contains psychological aspect. For students of English Department, this study is hoped can be a new reference study of literature for them. For general readers who are interested in literature, this study is hoped can give contribution in developing literature aspect and knowledge in English education.

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